CNET has Y2K Covered

By ENS Bobby Calzada

Sailors and Marines in the Naval Education & Training Command (NAVEDTRACOM) can be confident that people are working on keeping the Year 2000 Computer Bug from impeding their training on January 1, 2000. Members of the Chief of Naval Education & Training (CNET) staff have been working the Y2K issue since 1996 as new and improved standardized computer systems began to be deployed to support Navy training according to Bill Ottendorfer, CNET's Deputy Chief Information Officer. "In 1997, CNET formalized the Y2K program in assigning Naval Education and Training Professional Development & Technology Center (NETPDTC) to establish a CNET Y2K project office," says Ottendorfer. Frank Fox of NETPDTC currently heads that office.

During the period January 11-15 1999, the Office of the Naval Inspector General (NAVINSGEN), conducted an assessment on (1) Personnel Management; (2) Planning/Operations and Training; (3) Logistics, Facilities and Maintenance; (4) Communications and Information Technology; and (5) Financial Management. According to a preliminary NAVINSGEN report, "CNET is clearly the furthest along in addressing and resolving their Y2K issues."

Fox attributes CNET's efficiency to three factors: (1) Advance Planning and Preparation, (2) Upgrading and standardizing computer systems in schools and installations and (3) Ownership of the Y2K issues by Management. Fox also attributes the progress in identifying facilities vulnerable to Y2K to managerial cooperation between the CNET project team and personnel at base facilities. "Our tremendous progress in facilities infrastructure assessment is directly related to management's involvement to get the ball rolling," said Fox.

Throughout the Naval Education and Training Community, preparations are being made for Y2K. In December 1998, Public Works Center at NAS Pensacola and Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) conducted a controlled "rollover simulation test" in building 3460 at NAS Pensacola. This building was selected because of the variety of safety and environmental equipment containing "state-of-the-art" microprocessors. The results of this test validated manufactures claims and the tiger team's assessment that the building's systems were or were not Y2K compliant.

None of the systems that had been assessed by the team as Y2K compliant failed during the test.

Systems like those tested at NATTC have been the most vulnerable to Y2K. "Embedded microchips in facilities components, such as the electrical, water and sewer and security systems, have been the most difficult, mainly because these areas were least understood initially," says Fox. Ninety-four percent of CNET systems are classified as 'immune' to the Y2K bug. "Our latest statistics indicate that 2000 of the 33,800 components in our IT (Information Technology) and facilities infrastructure require renovation," he added. "These renovations include the upgrading of desktop computer systems and facility embedded microchips."

Additionally, Fox says that CNET commands must conduct contingency and continuity of operations planning to minimize the impact to naval training due to unforeseen system or infrastructure failures. "We have issued guidance to our activities to develop contingency of operations plans that may include modifying training schedules in order to minimize impacts if some system unexpectantly fails to operate properly on January 1, 2000," he explained. The Y2K Contingency Plan & Continuity of Operations Plan (CP & COOP) concentrates on the review of vulnerabilities and preparedness to sustain base services as the foundation for other planning.

Ultimately, Fox believes a successful Y2K program is as much a *management* issue, as it is a *computer* issue. "Preparing for Y2K shouldn't be shuffled off to the LAN Administrator or PC repair person and think that's the end of it," says Fox. "Y2K is manageable, but it requires preparation, communication and involvement by leadership and managers at all levels."

For more information on Y2K, see the CNET website's Y2K section at: <http://www.cnet.navy.mil/cnet/y2k/y2k.html>